

EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

Philadelphia to get \$1.3 million from Marcellus Shale impact fee

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER HARRISBURG - Drilling rigs are hardly a part of Philadelphia's cityscape, but the city will nonetheless receive just shy of \$1.3 million this year from the state's new impact fee on natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Gov. Corbett released detailed numbers Monday about how much money every municipality and county will be allotted under the new law, which kicks the majority of the proceeds to drilling communities but also sends money to all counties for conservation, beautification, and other purposes. Philadelphia ranked among the top 10 of 67 counties in the state for payouts, though there is no drilling within city limits. The state has brought in \$204 million since the legislature passed the fee this year. Sixty percent of that goes to drilling communities; the remainder is doled out to counties based on population. The governor's numbers are the first detailed breakdown of the fees. "We are serious about becoming energy leaders in this country and in the world," Corbett said Monday at a news conference in the Capitol, repeating one of his oft-expressed goals for the state. Philadelphia's share of the impact-fee pot comes to \$1.29 million. The suburbs will also fare well. Bucks County will get \$530,461; Chester County \$423,255; Delaware County \$474,238; and Montgomery County \$678,613. Checks are due to start going out within 10 days. In parts of the state without drilling, such as Philadelphia, the impact fee law requires that the money be used to build or maintain greenways, recreational trails, open space and natural areas; for conservation and beautification projects; and for water resource management projects. In drilling communities, proceeds from the impact fee must be used for purposes that include fixing roads and water and sewer infrastructure. In those communities, the law limited local zoning controls over drilling - and if a town's ordinances are deemed too restrictive under the new law, it will not receive funding until those rules are revised. That portion of the law has been challenged in state court. Corbett, a Republican, along with the GOP-led legislature, opted for an impact fee rather than a tax on drilling, despite criticism from many Democrats as well as environmentalists and others that a fee would only capture a fraction of what a tax on natural-gas extraction could. The governor and the more than two dozen legislators who joined him at his news conference Monday defended that path, saying the fee structure helped preserve a burgeoning industry while also requiring it to pay a fair price for extracting a valuable resource. Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R., Jefferson), the law's architect, said it ensures that those communities most impacted by drilling will receive the lion's share of the proceeds, rather than having the fees come into the state's general fund. Scarnati, whose district includes drilling locales, said a five-figure check might not sound like a lot, but in a small community with a limited budget for road repairs and other impacts of drilling, that money is important. "When you look at the impact fees going back to some of these townships ... it makes a difference," said Scarnati. "It's a huge, huge game-changer."

Pa. to distribute \$200M from gas drilling fees

ASSOCIATED PRESS HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania state agencies and local governments in places where drilling for natural gas is occurring learned Monday how much money they will get out from a fund that has already collected more than \$200 million in "impact fees" from drillers. Gov. Tom Corbett held a Capitol news conference at which he and other state officials disclosed the breakdown for counties, townships and boroughs. Checks should be going out from the state treasury over the coming 10 days, they said. All 67 counties get a share of the money, as do the Fish and Boat Commission, the Transportation Department, the Department of Environmental Protection and other state agencies that have some role in regulating or dealing with the drilling industry. But 60 percent of the \$204.2 million fund will go to 35 counties and nearly 1,500 municipalities where drilling occurs, including many rural, sparsely populated areas. The Marcellus Shale drilling boom has been concentrated in a wide swath of the state that runs from the northeast, across the northern part of Pennsylvania and into the southwest corner that borders West Virginia. "We are serious about becoming energy leaders in this country and the world," Corbett said, adding that the money will help local governments straining to provide services and maintain roads as drillers, their rigs and related activity have accompanied the shale gas boom. "We know that growth is something that has to be managed," Corbett said. The impact fee, passed in February for the Marcellus Shale, requires drillers to pay \$50,000 for each horizontally drilled well and \$10,000 for each vertical well drilled through 2011. The money being distributed was linked to nearly 4,500 wells and covers drilling through 2011. Payments for 2012 are due July 1. State law restricts how the money can be spent, allowing for such uses as fixing roads and building or repairing water and sewer infrastructure in areas where drilling is being done. In parts of the state without drilling, the money must be used to build or maintain greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, conservation, beautification, heritage parks or water resource management. Philadelphia's entire \$1.3 million share, for example, will go to those types of projects.

Report: Pa. changes drilling notification policy

ASSOCIATED PRESS PITTSBURGH — The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has changed its policy for water pollution cases that may be related to Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. The Post-Gazette of Pittsburgh reports Monday that department administrators in Harrisburg now decide whether residential water users should receive letters notifying them about problems. In the past, field offices made that decision. The policy was not publicly announced and was distributed in an internal department email on Sept. 14, the newspaper reported. A former department official told the newspaper that the policy baffles him. George Jugovic Jr., president of the environmental group PennFuture, said the letters are "supposed to be a scientific decision based on water test results and the law." He questioned whether top officials in Harrisburg have the experience to analyze tests. A decision not to send a pollution determination letter could save drilling companies from having to pay for groundwater remediation, water treatment or water replacement costs when a dispute with a property owner arises. Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Kevin Sunday told the paper that the agency made the policy change as a result of an Environmental Hearing Board ruling that found such letters are an appealable action that deserves top-level review. Sunday also said the department "takes very strong action in cases where oil and gas drilling causes methane migration." A former department secretary also questioned the change. John Hanger, Department of Environmental Protection secretary during the Rendell administration, said the agency bears the burden of justifying why such a change was made to a science-based process that reported water test results "honestly and independently and professionally." "The process wasn't broken. There was no abuse. The field staff is professional and careful and does a good job," Hanger said. "These determination letters should be based on good science." Hanger added that there are no cases yet to indicate that there are problems with the new policy.

DEP officials: We didn't change policy

ELLWOOD CITY LEDGER Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection officials said Monday they didn't change their policy for water contamination cases in relation to Marcellus shale drilling. According to several other published reports, the DEP gave officials in Harrisburg instead of their field officers the authority to decide whether to send notification letters regarding any issues with their water. But DEP officials

maintain this was not a "change in policy." "That does not involve a change in regulations or policy," DEP press secretary Kevin Sunday said. "We have an internal process known as a major action advisory that keeps apprised senior management of the major decisions that this department undertakes. As our field offices are charged with the day-to-day inspection of wells, and, more to the point, the investigation into oil- and gas-related water supply complaints, and as this administration takes very seriously methane migration, it was recently decided that the determination letters we issue to homeowners will go through this advisory process." Sunday said the DEP administration enacts a more than \$1 million penalty against an operator for methane migration, the largest in the history of the state's oil and gas program. In terms of the change in process, Sunday said it was simply to be on firmer ground when it comes to determinations regarding water contamination. "This process will ensure that we are on firm scientific and legal ground in making these determinations," He said. "In addition to the fact that there are significant consequences we would impose on operators, the review of these letters is also in part due to a recent Environmental Hearing Board decision that held these determination letters are appealable." This refers to the May ruling that said a Washington County resident could appeal his negative DEP water test, which he said was inaccurate and incomplete.

Manchin, Baber discuss mountaintop mining, redistricting after Raese walkout

CHARLESTON GAZETTE (Oct. 14) CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin and Mountain Party candidate Bob Henry Baber told Gazette editors Friday that they support expanding West Virginia's renewable energy portfolio, but they also said the state can't abandon coal. Senate Republican candidate John Raese showed up at the start of Friday's meeting, but abruptly left after learning that Baber would attend. Manchin said the United States burns one of every eight tons of coal in the world. Coal is West Virginia's largest export. "There's a demand for our coal," Manchin said. "You don't leave your base. I'm all for technology as far as renewables, but you can't force the market to go the direction you want it to go." Baber called coal a "throwback to the 19th century," and the 2010 Upper Big Branch mine disaster "an absolute crime to humanity." "But nobody is going to pull the plug on coal," he said. "We are dependent on coal." Manchin said the U.S. must continue to pursue "clean coal" technology and other measures to reduce emissions at coal-fired power plants. "We should be finding the technology that's affordable," he said. "At the proper time, we will transition to another fuel." Baber said his campaign was about "the transition from coal to green energy," though he opposes wind energy projects. He sharply criticized mountaintop removal, a surface mining process that uses explosives to blast off hilltops and deposit leftover rock and dirt in nearby valleys and streams. "The mountains are being lopped off, and the people are being poisoned," Baber said. "I don't want us to become the mountaintop removal state."

The EPA has completed cleanup construction at Hatfield site

DOYLESTOWN INTELLIGENCER Construction work that will allow the ongoing cleanup of a Hatfield Superfund site has been completed, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. EPA officials this week said that everything is in place to allow Ametek Inc. to collect and move contaminated groundwater to a local treatment plant. "The construction completion is an important milestone in protecting human health and the long-term goal of restoring contaminated groundwater to drinking water quality," said EPA spokeswoman Bonnie Smith. Known as the North Penn 2 Superfund Site, the 87-acre Bergey Road property was home to the former manufacturer of precision springs, reels and measuring and controlling apparatus. Ametek operated on 8 acres of the site from 1963 to 1986. In 1986, the North Penn Water Authority detected trichlorethylene, a degreasing solvent, and other volatile organic compounds in on-site and off-site monitoring wells. Additional investigations found soil, sediment and groundwater contamination — including arsenic, cadmium and chromium — that presented a significant risk to human health and the environment, EPA officials said. In 1989, the site was added to the agency's Superfund federal cleanup list. Under EPA oversight, Ametek removed nearly 1,200 cubic yards of contaminated soil and sediment, said the agency. Part of the cleanup also required the manufacturing company to upgrade its pumping system, which was designed to collect and move the

contaminated groundwater. Under Superfund law, the EPA must review the cleanup every five years.

EPA probes health risks left by old lead factory sites

USA TODAY (Oct. 14) The Environmental Protection Agency is re-examining more than 460 former lead factory sites across the USA for health hazards left by toxic fallout onto soil in nearby neighborhoods. The massive effort, a result of a USA TODAY investigation, involves locations in dozens of states and has already identified several sites needing further investigation and some so dangerous that cleanups are being scheduled, according to records and interviews with state regulators... "I'm glad that the federal government has taken seriously the reports from USA TODAY and my request to investigate the residual contamination," said U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio. In May, Brown and five other U.S. senators sent a letter to the EPA calling for the agency to examine the smelter sites. "Thousands of Ohioans, including infants and small children, may have been unknowingly exposed to dangerously high levels of lead left behind by former smelter sites." EPA officials have not responded to interview requests about their national smelter initiative since Sept. 28. USA TODAY obtained a copy of the agency's smelter strategy memo under the Freedom of Information Act. In April, USA TODAY's "Ghost Factories" investigation revealed that the EPA was given a list in 2001 of forgotten lead factories that primarily operated and shut down during the 1930s through the 1960s, before the era of environmental regulation. The EPA was warned by the researcher who compiled the list from old industry directories that many of the long-closed factories had likely contaminated the soil in surrounding properties with a toxic layer of lead fallout from their smokestacks, a risk to children playing in the dirt and putting dusty hands and toys in their mouths. Despite the warnings, USA TODAY's examination of all 464 sites on the list found that federal and state regulators had done little to investigate many of the sites or warn thousands of families and children in harm's way. Ingesting even tiny amounts of lead dust can cause irreversible loss of intelligence, attention disorders and other health problems. The series is available at ghostfactories.usatoday.com.

Coals decline forewarned

CHARLESTON GAZETTE (Sunday) CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- During last week's gubernatorial debate, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin tried to offer an encouraging assessment of where West Virginia's coal industry is headed in the wake of this year's string of major layoffs. "We certainly hope that, as the world economy picks back up, that the demand for coal will go back up, and a lot of these miners will go back to work," Tomblin said. In the presidential race, Republican candidate Mitt Romney has touted what experts say are greatly optimistic estimates of the life of the nation's coal supply -- if only regulators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would let it be mined and burned. Likewise, President Obama has promoted what he calls "clean coal" as part of an "all of the above" energy plan. Running for re-election, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., insists West Virginia coal can help America become "energy independent." Across West Virginia's southern coal counties, such talk suggests that coal's best days might be just around the corner, if regulators can be made to back off or new technology can capture dangerous emissions. There's just one problem: Analysts agree that much of the best coal in Southern West Virginia has already been mined. Thinner and lower quality seams are left, meaning production and productivity are dropping. Tough competition from inexpensive natural gas and other coal basins makes matters worse. New environmental restrictions only add to coal's problems, and production is headed down regardless of air or water pollution restrictions. Overall, production from Central Appalachia -- meaning mostly Southern West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky -- is projected to be cut in half by the end of this decade, according to the latest U.S. Department of Energy forecasts. Analysts have been warning about the region's ongoing coal decline - and the fact that West Virginia's coal would someday run out -- for years. A century ago, then-Gov. Henry Hatfield warned, "Our great storehouse of natural resources, given to us by nature, is rapidly disappearing." More recently, a 1995 report by the U.S. Bureau of Mines cautioned that, based on current production levels and known reserves, Boone County "will be able to sustain mining activities for no more than 20 years." "Coal is a finite resource, and people need to get that into their heads," said University of Texas geologist Tad Patzek, who has studied and written about coal reserves and production projections.

The World's Worst Composter Hits Pay Dirt

IT'S OUR ENVIRONMENT (EPA BLOG) (By Pam Lazos) Let me start by saying that I'm relatively new to the sport of composting. For the decade I lived in Philadelphia there was no place for a bin, and for next decade I had my hands full with an extensive home restoration project: new walls, new windows, new wiring, a top-to-bottom job – not an excuse, I know, but a person can only handle so much. So it's only in the last decade that I've taken up composting. Composting is one of the easiest, most sustainable activities around, but somehow I've managed to make it both difficult and anxiety-producing. Perhaps because I work here at EPA I feel I should excel in this environmentally-friendly activity. Nonetheless, I am convinced I am the world's worst composter. Every evening when I make salad, cut fruit, prepare vegetables, or clean the non-meat, non-grain discards from the plates, I set aside the remnants in a bowl or bag. After dinner, one of the kids runs it out back to our fancy compost bin. I first used a rather small bin, but results were snail-like so I amped it up with this larger fancy-pants model. The six-tiered design allows me to disassemble it, turn the soil, and put it back together with the utmost of ease. However, we're still talking refuse, and fluttering around the refuse is a barrage of fruit flies and other winged demons that rise up in protest every time I open the lid to deposit my castoffs. It gets worse. I had been filling this bin for three years and never once turned the soil. Embarrassed by my incompetence, I decided, just for kicks, to get out there with a shovel since none of my kids could be bribed. To combat the creepy flying things, I donned my husband's beekeeper hood and prepared to be attacked. I had low expectations, but after the first turn of the soil, I was amazed. Beneath the still recognizable orange peels and pineapple rinds, the discarded zucchini ends and apple cores, was none other than black gold. Beautiful, black, rich, fertile soil that I intend to spread on my flower garden this fall — using the bee hood, of course. So I'm here to tell you, if the world's worst composter can do it, you can too!

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Philadelphia to get \$1.3 million from Marcellus Shale impact fee HARRISBURG - Drilling rigs are hardly a part of Philadelphia's cityscape, but the city will nonetheless receive just shy of \$1.3 million this year from the state's new impact fee on natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Gov. Corbett released detailed numbers Monday about how much money every municipality and county will be allotted under the new law, which kicks the majority of the proceeds to drilling communities but also sends money to all counties for conservation, beautification, and other purposes. Philadelphia ranked among the top 10 of 67 counties in the state for payouts, though there is no drilling within city limits. The state has brought in \$204 million since the legislature passed the fee this year. Sixty percent of that goes to drilling communities; the remainder is doled out to counties based on population. The governor's numbers are the first detailed breakdown of the fees. "We are serious about becoming energy leaders in this country and in the world," Corbett said Monday at a news conference in the Capitol, repeating one of his oft-expressed goals for the state. Philadelphia's share of the impact-fee pot comes to \$1.29 million. The suburbs will also fare well. Bucks County will get \$530,461; Chester County \$423,255; Delaware County \$474,238; and Montgomery County \$678,613. Checks are due to start going out within 10 days. In parts of the state without drilling, such as Philadelphia, the impact fee law requires that the money be used to build or maintain greenways, recreational trails, open space and natural areas; for conservation and beautification projects; and for water resource management projects. In drilling communities, proceeds from the impact fee must be used for purposes that include fixing roads and water and sewer infrastructure. In those communities, the law limited local zoning controls over drilling - and if a town's ordinances are deemed too restrictive under the new law, it will not receive funding until those rules are revised. That portion of the law has been challenged in state court. Corbett, a Republican, along with the GOP-led legislature, opted for an impact fee rather than a tax on drilling, despite criticism from many Democrats as well as environmentalists and others that a fee would only capture a fraction of what a tax on natural-gas extraction could. The governor and the more than two dozen legislators who joined him at his news conference Monday defended

that path, saying the fee structure helped preserve a burgeoning industry while also requiring it to pay a fair price for extracting a valuable resource. Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R., Jefferson), the law's architect, said it ensures that those communities most impacted by drilling will receive the lion's share of the proceeds, rather than having the fees come into the state's general fund. Scarnati, whose district includes drilling locales, said a five-figure check might not sound like a lot, but in a small community with a limited budget for road repairs and other impacts of drilling, that money is important. "When you look at the impact fees going back to some of these townships ... it makes a difference," said Scarnati. "It's a huge, huge game-changer."

GreenSpace column: Let there be light - but not so much The searchlights over the Benjamin Franklin Parkway have gone dark. The three-week *Open Air* show by Montreal artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is packing up. But the issue of light pollution that simmered throughout is still with us. It is of concern not only to astronomers, but to others who feel the bejeweled dark sky is an important part of living on Earth and being human. The lofty realm has inspired us to write poetry, compose music, ponder the existence of God, and fall in love. But the ever-creeping glow of light into ever more remote spots has been dramatic. Drivers encounter "glare bombs" from service stations, car dealers, and parking lots. "Light pillars" shoot skyward from our cities. Streetlights once thought to enhance our safety and make our neighborhoods look friendly are now referred to as "pollution on a stick." Drive any highway in the wee hours - as I did not long ago - and many spots are lit like Hollywood studio sets. How many of us can still see the Milky Way? The push for energy efficiency may not have helped. True, some of the newer technologies can direct the light more precisely and require less wattage. Then again, some people who buy more efficient bulbs simply leave them on all night. In 2010, researchers from the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico studied lighting use through history and found that humans have consistently favored more light as the technology progressed from candles to oil lamps to gas lamps to electricity.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Commentary: Turning land from brown to green: Pittsburgh's reuse of industrial sites is a story worth telling (Sunday) Pittsburgh has undergone a half-century-long transformation from a steel town to an acclaimed post-industrial city whose education and medical institutions are among the best in the world. While it is not news to anyone living in the region that Pittsburgh has come a long way, those living elsewhere are just beginning to realize it. Much credit for this change belongs to the civic and community leaders who saw the potential in Pittsburgh's past and the role it could play in shaping the city's future. After the steel industry declined, most of the mills that defined the region stood idle, contaminating the environment and hampering economic and community development. Years of inactivity transformed these sites into what are commonly known as brownfields. Brownfields are sites that have been deemed unsuitable for development because of actual or perceived contamination. Because the region has worked to reclaim many of these brownfields for redevelopment, Pittsburgh has developed a reputation for successfully recycling contaminated land. Pittsburgh's environmental cleanup and strategic redevelopment of brownfields has become a national model for cities that seek to transform themselves into attractive post-industrial success stories.

Energy firms pump cash into Pennsylvania campaigns For the billion-dollar companies writing the checks, the campaign contributions are little more than a rounding error. Range Resources of Fort Worth, Texas, donated \$3,000 to a Washington County commissioner running for state treasurer. Chesapeake Energy is headquartered in Oklahoma City but gave \$1,000 to an auditor general candidate who has pledged, if elected, to investigate how Pennsylvania monitors shale drilling. And Chief E&D Holdings in Dallas sent a check for \$1,000 to a Cumberland County man running for Pennsylvania attorney general. They may be small amounts, but they make one thing clear: Some of the country's biggest energy companies are now getting involved in some of Pennsylvania's smaller races. In the statewide races for attorney general, auditor general and state treasurer, gas drilling firms donated at least \$16,250 to the Democratic and Republican candidates from January to September, according to a Post-Gazette analysis. When contributions from energy company-affiliated PACs and utility firms are taken into account, the amount of money given by the energy sector balloons to \$80,750. The analysis included direct company contributions as well as donations from lobbying firms and government relations organizations that represent drillers and other energy businesses. Still, the full effect of the energy industry's influence in the 2012 cycle remains

to be seen. Contributions given in the current cycle won't be reported until Oct. 26, with nearly two weeks left before the election. Energy money in Pennsylvania politics isn't new; many of the Marcellus Shale drillers have been donating to legislators and gubernatorial candidates since they began extracting natural gas from the formation several years ago.

First taste of Marcellus Shale fees in the pipe \$204M raised to compensate for well activity. HARRISBURG -- Officials in the Greene County township of Cumberland got a surprise after Monday's announcement on how much Pennsylvania's towns and counties will receive from the new drilling impact fee. The municipality will see its annual \$2.3 million budget increase by nearly half when a check from the state Public Utility Commission arrives in the next 10 days. Its \$1.04 million check is the most of any township statewide. "That's quite nice," said Bill Groves, chairman of Cumberland's board of supervisors, adding that the township had been expecting about three-quarters of that figure. "We'll make maximum use of it." Cumberland is among the nearly 1,500 towns and all 67 county governments -- with the exception of four towns pending state review of their drilling rules -- that will share in the \$204 million raised in the first round of the state's new drilling impact fee. That annual fee is levied on energy companies operating in the state's Marcellus Shale region. Drillers paid the \$50,000 fee on each of the 4,022 horizontal shale wells. Another 311 shallower vertical wells were assessed at a lesser rate of \$10,000 each. Gov. Tom Corbett, who supported the per-well fee over alternative plans for a drilling tax based on gas production, said at a news conference Monday that the fees are structured in a way that will ensure communities bearing the brunt of the activity receive "nothing less than their fair share" of compensation. "When we were confronted with the challenges and opportunities of this emerging industry, our goal was to get things right," Mr. Corbett said. "I think today's number of \$204 million is a clear sign that we did."

DEP alters policy on foul-water notifications The state Department of Environmental Protection has a new review policy for water contamination cases related to Marcellus Shale gas well operations that lets department administrators in Harrisburg instead of field offices decide whether residential water users should receive letters notifying them about problems. The month-old policy hasn't stopped, held up or altered any contaminated-water determination letters. And the DEP said in response to questions that it would not result in delays to homeowners about water contamination. However, critics are concerned that the policy allows high-level DEP officials in Harrisburg to decide not to issue, or delay issuing, contamination determination letters recommended by a field office. A decision not to make that determination could save drilling companies millions of dollars in groundwater remediation, water treatment or replacement costs, and lengthen the time it takes to fix the problems. Prior to the change in policy, DEP water quality specialists would send samples to the state testing laboratory and review the results with department geologists. Then, based on those results, district offices would send contamination determination letters to the affected residents or property owners. The new policy, instituted in mid-September, requires DEP field offices to instead send the contamination determinations to Harrisburg for review by top administrators, up to and including Scott Perry, deputy secretary of DEP's Office of Oil and Gas Management, and DEP Secretary Michael Krancer. The administrators then decide whether determination letters should be sent. The policy was not publicly announced and was distributed in a brief, internal DEP email on Sept. 14 from Mr. Perry to four regional oil and gas field offices.

Frick Park awaits environmental center as energetic boost About 30 people gathered around Marijke Hecht at the bottom of the Green Path in the shadow of the Frick Park Environmental Center, a vacant hulk that burned 10 years ago. It was last Thursday afternoon, when the sky was a brilliant blue, the air a breezy weave of chill and warmth. Ms. Hecht is director of education for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. She was telling us about the city and conservancy's plan to build a new center, restore architectural and natural features around it, and create a woodland amphitheater. "This is a natural bowl already," she said, and we moved our heads to take in the gentle up-slope encircling us. As you move through Frick Park from its entrances, she said, "you go from a formal park atmosphere to an ever more natural environment. A woodland amphitheater is an intersection of that." A shriek and streak of gray yanked our attention skyward. "Oh look!" she cried out, pointing. "A red-tailed hawk." As the bird swirled overhead and disappeared, I got that euphoric swelling in the chest that catches you sometimes. Sometimes it

catches you when nothing you suspect has happened and you can't figure out why you just got so happy you could cartwheel over the sweeping boughs of a 100-year-old tree. I gave that a thought. What was it? I had been thrilled by a great bird before. I was jazzed by the almost ultimate environmentalism of the plans Ms. Hecht was telling us about, but I had reported that news in May. The center won't contribute any water to storm drains. It will be warm and cool, thanks to the sun, the water deep under our feet and good design. It will recirculate naturally treated rainwater that shoots up from a restored fountain. It will direct toilet waste to plants and microbes that can treat and process it for fertilizer. It will have permeable pavement. It will divert rooftop rainwater to a wetland. It will even make a parking lot appealing -- and shady -- with trellises and a solar collection system.

Pennsylvania measure would end inspections for new vehicles (Monday) Tests called moot due to better safety, pollution measures. HARRISBURG -- New-car buyers often question why the state makes them get annual safety and emissions inspections on new vehicles, say two state senators from Western Pennsylvania. So Sens. Elder Vogel and John Wozniak are trying to eliminate those requirements and their costs for buyers of new cars, but time is quickly running out on their bill that would do so. Mr. Vogel, R-New Sewickley, introduced Senate Bill 1532, which would waive the annual emissions tests for 10 years for all new vehicles. The measure, which could come up for a vote in the Senate as soon as today, also would do away with the emissions tests for new vehicles that are powered by electric, hybrid electric and compressed natural gas engines.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

AK Valley feels impact of drilling fees In the state's Marcellus shale gas sweepstakes, Washington Township appears to be the Valley's big winner. Out of all Alle-Kiski communities, none comes close to the nearly \$380,000 that Washington Township will be getting from the impact fee. The state released the amounts that every community in the state will be receiving through the Public Utility Commission's website. "Obviously, this is a big boost to the township," said Rich Gardner, Washington Township supervisors chairman. "It equates to about 4.5 to 5 mills of taxes. It will prevent a tax increase, for sure." The township has 39 gas-producing wells with an additional 10 that have received permits but have yet to be drilled, according to Gardner. The state collects an impact fee of \$50,000 per well from the drilling companies and raked in more than \$204 million across the state. Eight programs, mostly state agencies, get \$23 million of that money off the top. Of what's left, county and municipal governments get to share 60 percent, or \$108.7 million. The state requires that it be spend on environmental and social programs, repairs for sewage and road systems and other impacts from the drilling boom. Most of that \$108.7 million goes to municipalities that have producing, deep-shale wells. Twenty-seven percent of that goes to neighboring municipalities or municipalities in the same county depending on a formula set by the state. Of the Valley's five Butler County communities, Winfield Township will rake in the most, close to \$67,000. "I actually didn't know what to expect," township Supervisor Glenn Nagle said. "I knew we were supposed to get something but until it actually happened, I had no idea what to expect. "Getting this extra money for the roads would be excellent," he said. "I'm sure if we get to do our roads without adding tax dollars, I think a lot of people would be happy." He believes there are between four and six Marcellus shale wells in the township. Lori Ziencik, chairwoman of the Frazer Supervisors, said there are three drilling sites in the township but isn't sure of the exact number of wells there. But the number was enough to yield more than \$54,700 in Marcellus fees, which was tops for all of Allegheny County. "That's about what we thought it would be over the summer when there was an estimate for the municipality," she said. "We're in the midst of budgeting right now but we will be budgeting it. We have a road that needs paved — Days Run Road — and (the money) will put in for the roads." Of the Valley's Armstrong County communities, Manor Township was the Marcellus leader with \$128,000 coming its way.

Pennsylvania details who gets impact-fee money from gas drillers Several Western Pennsylvania townships and counties stand to benefit the most from the \$204 million Pennsylvania collected in impact fees from Marcellus shale gas drilling. "This is certainly a pleasant surprise. Oh my," said William Groves, supervisors chair in Cumberland in Greene County, when told his township is getting \$1 million, the largest municipal payout in the state. "It's certainly a pleasant problem. We'll have to do a lot of planning to determine how we're going to spend this." The state Public Utility Commission on Monday detailed how much each town, county and state agency will

get from the fees in the next two weeks. Townships in Washington and Greene counties are slated to get five of the six highest payouts to municipalities in the state, ranging from \$512,000 for Mt. Pleasant in Washington County to \$1 million for Cumberland. Washington County will get the most of any county government in the region, \$4.43 million. Rules that dole out some conservation money based on population mean that Allegheny County will get more than \$1 million, nearly as much as Fayette and Westmoreland counties, which each has dozens more wells. The announcement pleased community leaders who said the money will help them deal with years of stress from the drilling boom. New roads and equipment topped their list for improvements and some are talking about libraries, too. "The gas industry has roughed us up a lot for the last five years, and now it's time to get a face-lift," said Shirl Barnhart, township supervisor in Morgan in Greene County. The township will replace a 1986 maintenance truck with its \$536,000. "It's going to mean a lot."

HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS

Midstate counties to grab a share of the Marcellus shale impact fees Midstate counties will receive a combined total of nearly \$950,000 from the money generated by the impact fee on the state's natural gas drilling industry. Counties will begin receiving their share of the money within the next 10 days - well before the Dec. 1 deadline that the law required. The portion of the funds that midstate counties will receive is set aside for competitive grants for such projects as water and sewer repairs, bridge improvements, community park and recreation, and other municipal projects. Locally, Cumberland County will receive \$199,719; Dauphin, \$227,456; Lebanon, \$113,319; Perry, \$39,000; and York, \$369,031. The money that the impact fee law allows to go to all counties represents 40 percent of the \$204.2 million generated this year from the tax, or \$72.5 million. The other 60 percent goes to the counties and municipalities that host drilling sites. Those 35 counties and 1,485 municipalities will receive a combined \$108.7 million. Gov. Tom Corbett noted this money is in addition to the millions the industry has generated in corporation taxes as well as the creation of tens of thousands of jobs. "When we were confronted with the challenges and opportunities of this emerging industry, my goal, our goal was to get things right and I think today's number of \$204 million is a clear sign we did," Corbett said at a Capitol news conference.

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

Delco receives \$474,238 in 'impact fees' Delaware County will be receiving \$474,238 back from the state in "impact fees" generated from Marcellus Shale natural gas drillers, the governor's office announced Monday. Gov. Tom Corbett, a Republican, held a news conference in Harrisburg at which he and other state officials disclosed the breakdown for counties, townships and boroughs. Corbett said that under Act 13, the state has generated more than \$204.2 million through the new fees on natural gas drilling. Under the law, state agencies responsible for oversight of natural gas development will receive \$25.5 million in funding, including the Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Office of the State Fire Commissioner and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. About 60 percent of the funds, or \$108.7 million, will be distributed to 35 counties and 1,485 local municipalities that host Marcellus Shale natural gas development. The remaining 40 percent of the revenue, or \$72.5 million, will be distributed to all 67 counties in Pennsylvania "and set aside for competitive grants for projects such as water and sewer, local bridge improvements, local community park and recreation, Growing Greener and other municipal projects," states a news release from the governor's office. Public Utility Commission spokeswoman Jennifer Kocher said counties should receive the funds in two weeks and the checks cover drilling through 2011. Payments for 2012 are due July 1. Delaware County Council Chairman Tom McGarrigle said Monday afternoon that he was delighted the county would be receiving some funds from the Marcellus Shale drilling. He said county officials were in the process of determining how they could use the funds. Delaware County Executive Director Marianne Grace echoed McGarrigle's comments. She said that if the funds are restricted for open space and so-called "greenway" projects, the county has a number of initiatives in planning phases that could utilize those funds.

CANON-McMILLAN PATCH

White: State's 'Hijacking of Impact Fees Shameful and Unlawful' The lawmaker is calling on the Corbett administration and his counterparts in the Senate 'to urge the PUC to release the money in accordance with the law.'